

EPA Climate Change and Water News

August 16, 2013

The *EPA Climate Change and Water News* is a bi-weekly newsletter from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water that features news and information about EPA and other federal agencies related to climate change and water. Partner activities, as well as related events and publications, are also included.

For more information on climate change and water, please visit our website:
<http://www.epa.gov/water/climatechange>.

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U.S. EPA News

EPA's WaterSense Program Releases Notice of Intent to Develop a Specification for Commercial Toilets

In an effort to improve water efficiency, the WaterSense program is announcing its intent to develop a specification to extend restroom savings to places of business. Older flushometer-valve toilets typically found in commercial and institutional facilities such as airports, schools, stadiums, and office buildings can use more than 3.4 gallons per flush. With a growing emphasis on water efficiency, there is an interest in seeing commercial toilets that are even more efficient than the national standard of 1.6 gallons per flush. The notice of intent describes the efficiency and performance criteria WaterSense is considering including in a draft specification, as well as the technical issues that still need to be more fully defined and resolved. Read more about WaterSense plans for a flushometer-valve specification at:

<http://www.epa.gov/watersense/products/flushometer-valve-toilets.html>.

EPA and the U.S. Geological Survey Publish Report on Modeling Mercury Dynamics in Watersheds under Future Climate Change Scenarios

Future shifts in climatic conditions may impact watershed mercury dynamics and transport. EPA's National Exposure Research Laboratory and the U.S. Geological Survey's Mercury in Stream Ecosystem Study have collaborated to develop a paper entitled "Climate change and watershed mercury export: A multiple projection and model analysis." The paper focuses on the McTier Creek basin in South Carolina. An ensemble of watershed models was applied in the study to simulate and evaluate the responses of hydrological and total mercury fluxes from the landscape to the watershed outlet and in-stream total mercury concentrations to contrasting climate change projections for a watershed in the southeastern coastal plain of the United States. To view this publication and others, visit: <http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/mercury/pubs/>.

EPA and Other Federal Agencies Partner on Climate Change in the Mid-Atlantic

The second meeting of the Federal Climate Partners of the Mid-Atlantic, including EPA Regions 2 and 3, was held on Tuesday, July 23, 2013. The group was formed in the beginning of 2013 to foster more regular information sharing, and improve coordination and collaboration across agencies. The group is currently identifying opportunities for joint engagements and products/ tool development that can assist the region in cutting carbon pollution, communicating climate change information and building resilience to climate change. For more information about the impact of climate change work in the Mid-Atlantic, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/reg3artd/globclimate/ccimpact.html>.

Other U.S. Federal Agency News

NOAA Releases Annual Global Climate Assessment: "State of the Climate 2012"

The annual "State of the Climate" report, released on August 6, 2013, provides a detailed update on global climate indicators, notable weather events, and other environmental data from the last calendar year. Scientists from NOAA's National Climatic Data Center served as lead editors of the report, compiling contributions from 384 scientists from 52 nations. The 2012 edition of this peer-reviewed study was published in the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society. To read the report, visit: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/news/2012-state-climate-report-released>.

NOAA's Climate Program Office Announces Funding Opportunity for Fiscal Year 2014

NOAA is accepting individual applications for nine competitions, organized around the Climate Program Office's Climate Observations and Monitoring; Earth System Science; Modeling, Analysis, Predictions, and Projections; and Climate and Societal Interactions Programs. Letters of intent are due by 5 p.m. Eastern Time, September 10, 2013, and the deadline for final applications is 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time, November 14, 2013. To read the announcement, visit: <http://www.grants.gov/view-opportunity.html?oppld=239854>. For program information sheets with specifics on the topics for the proposals, visit: <http://cpo.noaa.gov/GrantsandProjects.aspx>.

National Science Foundation Solicits Proposals for Water Sustainability and Climate Program

One of the most urgent challenges facing the world today is ensuring the continuance of an adequate supply and quality of water. This solicitation from the National Science Foundation (NSF) seeks proposals to determine how our built water systems and our governance systems can be made more reliable, resilient, and sustainable to meet diverse needs. This activity allows the partner agencies - NSF and the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA/NIFA) - to combine resources to identify and fund projects that support their respective missions. Successful proposals are expected to study water systems in their entirety and to enable a new interdisciplinary paradigm in water research. Proposals that do not broadly integrate across the biological sciences, geosciences,

engineering, and social sciences may be returned without review. Projects supported under this solicitation may establish new observational sites or utilize existing observational sites and facilities already supported by NSF or other federal and state agencies. The application deadline for proposals is September 10, 2013. For more information, visit: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13535/nsf13535.htm>.

Department of Interior Landscape Conservation Cooperatives Launch Website

With the signing of Secretarial Order No. 3289, the Department of the Interior launched the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs) to better integrate science and management to address climate change and other landscape scale issues. By building a network that is holistic, collaborative, adaptive, and grounded in science, the LCCs are working to ensure the sustainability of our economy, land, water, wildlife, and cultural resources. The 22 LCCs collectively form a network of resource managers and scientists who share a common need for scientific information and interest in conservation. Each LCC brings together federal, state, and local governments along with Tribes and First Nations, non-governmental organizations, universities, and interested public and private organizations. To access Secretarial Order No. 3289, please visit: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13535/nsf13535.htm>. To learn more, visit the new national Landscape Conservation Cooperative website at: <http://lccnetwork.org/>.

NOAA Report Highlights Climate Change Threats to Nation's Estuaries

The recently released national study, "Climate Sensitivity of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System", examines some of the factors that make estuaries and the communities dependent on estuarine resources susceptible to climate change. The work is focused in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS), a collection of 28 reserves located around the U.S. and Puerto Rico, which are managed as a partnership between NOAA and the coastal states for long-term research, ecosystem monitoring, education, and coastal stewardship. This is the first national climate sensitivity analysis of U.S. estuaries. It is unique in that it examines both the biophysical and socio-demographic sensitivities of reserve sites to climate change. The report provides management recommendations based on its key findings. The report is available at: <http://nerrs.noaa.gov/News.aspx?id=405>.

Other News

Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) Releases Report: "Weathering the Storm: Building Business Resilience to Climate Change"

Businesses face growing threats from extreme weather and climate change: damage to facilities, loss of water or power supplies, higher costs, and disruption of supply and distribution chains. A recent report by C2ES, formerly the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, provides a detailed snapshot of the state of resilience planning among a cross-section of global companies. It outlines steps companies can take to better assess and manage their growing climate risks. The report includes a comprehensive review of resilience practices among companies and detailed case studies of six companies in diverse sectors, including: American Water, Bayer, The Hartford Group, National Grid, Rio Tinto and Weyerhaeuser. The report also draws on input from a technical workshop with representatives of a wide range of industries. For more information and to access this report, visit: <http://www.c2es.org/initiatives/business-resilience>.

University of North Carolina Releases Report: "Adapting to Climate Change: A Handbook for Local Governments in North Carolina"

The Coastal Hazards Center at the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill has developed a handbook to help local governments in North Carolina adapt to climate change. The handbook demonstrates the need for local action and explains the options that are open to local governments. To access the complete handbook, please visit: <http://coastalhazardscenter.org/adapt>.